

Nature as a compiler of emotions with...

Macroglossum stellatarum and *Echium plantagineum*

<https://www.env.aegean.gr/news-post/oi-petaloúdes-tης-lέσβου-joan-caronil-2024/>



Macroglossum stellatarum, or "Hummingbird hawk-moth" is a moth of the family Sphingidae, and one of the most widespread species in temperate Eurasia. They have a relatively good ability to learn colours, and this chromatic discrimination is even more precise than the *Apis mellifera* (honey bee).

Adults feed on nectar of tube-shaped flowers using their long proboscis while hovering in the air...like a hummingbird. This resemblance is an example of **convergent evolution**. The "purple viper's bugloss", *Echium plantagineum*, is one of their favourite among many others.

Among many other spots, I can relate this interesting moth to the region of Aspropotamos and the village area of Mantamados in Lesvos, where I saw them hovering around different flowers, and evoked me feelings of magnificence, surrealism and perfection due their speed and precise way of behaviour.

Like perhaps the Greek poet Κώστας Καρυωτάκης, "Kostas Karyotakis" with his poetry that conveys a great deal of nature, imagery and traces of expressionism and surrealism.

The magic of the *Macroglossum stellatarum*, transports us to a similar enchantment and nature.